
The Rural District Council
of Gainsborough



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health



For the Year
1947

The Rural District Council of Gainsborough

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1947.

Public Health Department,
10/12, Lord Street,
Gainsborough.
31st August, 1948.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF GAINSBOROUGH.**

Introduction to the Annual Report for 1947.

I have the honour to present the following report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District during the year 1947.

It will be noticed that the population is now 10,460, an increase of 110 since the previous year.

There is a slight rise in the Birth and Death Rates, but it is very pleasing to note that the Infantile Mortality Rate (the Number of Deaths of Children under one year per 1,000 Live Births) is again at an exceptionally low figure compared with other areas. It is 33 compared with 41 for all England and Wales. Also there was an absence of any serious outbreak of Infectious Disease.

Statistics are given as far as possible in the form of Comparative Tables in an endeavour to avoid lengthy explanations.

The year 1947 can be put on record as remarkably eventful because of the stress of weather. Prolonged heavy snowfalls in Winter resulted in the worst floods ever known here, due to the bursting of the River Trent bank at Morton. This was caused by the over-filling of the River when the thaw set in towards the end of the month of March.

The Northern Trentside area was deeply inundated over several square miles, and the villages of Morton, Walkerith, East Stockwith, Wildsworth, and East Ferry were surrounded by water. The use of Army Amphibious vehicles 'D.U.W.K.S.' was necessary to reach these villages and outlying farms for the purposes of evacuation of the homeless and for daily services, which were run to deliver food and comforts for the people and fodder for the animals. In this connection, most valuable voluntary services were rendered by the Police and other Public and Private bodies.

In view of this anxious and distressing time, it is very surprising that the 'Bill of Health' for this District proved to be a highly satisfactory one.

In conclusion, I wish to express to you my gratitude for the kindly support which I have received in my work in the Health Department. I also wish to thank the Sanitary Inspector, the Water Engineer and the Clerk for their constant and valuable co-operation.

J. C. MACARTNEY,

M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Rural District	78,598 acres
Estimated Population	10,460
Rateable Value on 31st March, 1947	£38,306
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£153

The district is entirely rural in character and the sole industry is agriculture.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	107	105	212
Legitimate	103	102	205
Illegitimate	4	3	7
Still Births	3	—	3
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			20.26

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS. 1947. All causes ...	72	59	131
Death Rate			12.52

DEATHS. Infants under 1 year.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births:—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	1	7
Infantile Mortality Rate			33

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Influenza	—	2	2
Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	1	—	1
Cancer	2	11	13
Diabetes	—	2	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	8	8	16
Heart Disease	20	13	33
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	3	6
Bronchitis	3	5	8
Pneumonia	2	—	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	—	1
Appendicitis	2	—	2
Other Digestive Diseases	2	2	4
Nephritis	1	1	2
Premature Birth	1	—	1
Congenital Malformation, etc.	4	—	4
Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	—	2
Violent Causes	5	1	6
All Other Causes	11	8	19

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Maternal Causes	—	1	1
Premature Birth	1	—	1
Congenital Causes	4	—	4

COMPARATIVE TABLES.

Births				Birth
Year	Male	Female	Total	Rate
1947	107	105	212	20.26
1946	111	95	206	18.18
1945	88	111	199	19.7

Deaths				Death
Year	Male	Female	Total	Rate
1947	72	59	131	12.52
1946	53	56	109	10.5
1945	69	56	125	12.3

	†Birth Rate	†Death Rate	‡Infant Mortality
England and Wales	20.5	12.0	41
126 Great Towns	23.3	13.0	47
148 Smaller Towns	22.2	11.9	36
London	22.7	12.8	37
Gainsborough Rural District ...	20.26	12.52	33

† Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

HOSPITALS AVAILABLE:—

Fever:

Gainsborough Isolation Hospital—provided and maintained by the Urban District Council. Special provision is made by the Lindsey and Lincoln Joint Smallpox Hospital Board for cases of Smallpox.

Tuberculosis:

Branston Hall Sanatorium, Lincoln. Brumby Tuberculosis Hospital, Scunthorpe. Grimsby Corporation Sanatorium. Also others outside the County.

Maternity:

Maternity Home, Gainsborough—provided and maintained by Lindsey County Council.

Mental:

Bracebridge Mental Hospital and Harmston Hall Colony, Lincoln.

General:

Medical and Surgical cases can be admitted to the John Coupland Hospital, Gainsborough. For eligible cases there are also available the Reynard Hospital at Willingham-by-Stow, the Lincoln County Hospital, Scunthorpe War Memorial Hospital. Louth County Infirmary is a modern Municipal Hospital maintained by Lindsey County Council. Brigg Infirmary is under the same Authority.

Laboratory Facilities:

Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln. Grimsby Corporation Laboratory.

Ambulance Facilities:

(a) For Infectious Cases:

Gainsborough Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

(b) For Non-Infectious Cases:

Gainsborough Town Ambulance and the St. John Ambulance.

Health Officers:

One Whole-time Medical Officer of Health for Combined Districts. One Sanitary Inspector. The services of District Nurses and Midwives are available, and Lindsey County Council provide Health Visitors in connection with Tuberculosis, Schools, and Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

Health Services Administered by the County Council:

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Tuberculosis.

School Medical Services.

Venereal Diseases, etc.

Clinics in connection with these services are available at Gainsborough, Scunthorpe or Lincoln according to proximity thereto.

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is derived partly from the Council's boreholes at Glenthams, and partly by purchases in bulk from the Lincoln Corporation from their Elkesley Waterworks and from the Glanford Brigg Rural District Council.

All parishes now have a piped water supply which is chiefly direct. The few supplies by standpipes are being replaced by direct supplies as rapidly as possible.

Samples taken for Bacteriological and Chemical examination have all proved to be satisfactory.

Number of Dwellinghouses supplied 1,820

Estimated Population supplied 6,000

FLOODS.

During the flood disaster, referred to in the Preface, the water mains on Stockwith Road burst and thereby cut off the water supply to East Stockwith for a period of about four weeks. The repairs to the main were carried out and water supplies restored before the floods had completely subsided. About four miles of main was affected and this was chlorinated before restoration of supplies. Samples were taken and these proved satisfactory.

Great praise is due to our Water Engineer, Mr. Strother, for his skill and promptitude in remedying this difficult and perplexing problem.

In the flooded area urgent instructions were given by leaflets and by other means to purify drinking water by boiling, etc. The inhabitants co-operated whole-heartedly and not one case of water-borne disease was encountered.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No additions have been made during the year, but as you are aware a Public Inquiry has since been held in respect of Morton, Blyton, Lea and Knaith Park, Scotter and Scotton, and we are now awaiting the report from the Ministry.

I have made inspections with your Sanitary Inspector of the open sewers in the various Parishes, and I understand that several of these have been cleansed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is still only one Offensive Trade in your District, and I have inspected the same jointly with your Sanitary Inspector. There appeared to be no contraventions of the Regulations.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

During the past year, there has been a marked improvement here as a further eleven Parishes have now a Collection Scheme, which I hope will in the near future be extended throughout the District.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The H.M. Factory Inspector reported that there was insufficient sanitary accommodation on Premises which come under the above Act, but this defect has now been remedied.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspections of dwellinghouses during the year numbered 1,717. These have been categorised as required by the Ministry of Health.
2. Defects.
Twenty-six premises were rendered habitable in all respects.
3. New Houses.
Number of new houses erected by the Local Authority during the year was 58.
The number of houses erected by Private Enterprise was 9.

As stated in my previous Report, there is still a trend of population towards an increasing percentage of old people, and there will arise in future Housing Schemes the need for consideration of provision of accommodation for the aged. This might be kept in mind when building resources are less limited.

SECTION E.

MILK SUPPLY.

There have been several complaints regarding the Milk Supply, but taking everything into consideration, I think the supply is satisfactory. There have been quite a few new applications for Registration under the Milk and Dairies Order, and the premises have been inspected by your Sanitary Inspector together with the Milk Production Officer of the Lindsey Agricultural Executive Committee, and in all cases the premises have been made suitable before the applicant has been allowed to dispose of his milk through the Milk Marketing Board.

MEAT.

I have nothing further to add to my last Annual Report. The Slaughterhouses in your District are not in use, and all slaughtering is done at the Public Abattoir in Gainsborough.

SECTION F

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

It is especially noteworthy that not one case of Diphtheria was encountered during the year. This is particularly fortunate as a Diphtheria Carrier was discovered. He was a schoolboy and could not be isolated indefinitely, so he was admitted to Gainsborough Infectious Diseases Hospital, where his tonsils were removed, and his sinuses drained. After penicillin and other treatment he was very soon discharged and considered to be no further risk to the public.

Only one case of Infantile Paralysis was notified, although this serious complaint was epidemic in many parts of the country.

The following tables show the number of cases of Infectious Diseases by reference to Parishes and Age Groups.

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Polio- Myelitis
0-1	—	4	—	—	1	—	—
1-2	—	11	2	—	—	—	—
2-3	—	13	2	—	—	—	1
3-4	1	22	—	—	—	—	—
4-5	—	18	1	—	—	—	—
5-10	6	76	3	—	—	—	—
10-15	2	17	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
20-35	—	4	—	1	—	1	—
35 up	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	11	170	8	2	1	1	1

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES.

Name of Parish	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Polio- Myelitis
Blyborough	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Blyton	2	15	1	—	—	—	—
Corringham	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Fillingham	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gate Burton	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Grayingham	—	5	—	—	—	1	—
Heapham	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Hemswell	—	1	4	—	—	—	—
Knaith	—	3	—	1	—	—	—
Laughton	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Lea	—	14	—	—	—	—	—
Morton	—	15	2	1	—	—	—
Newton-on-Trent . .	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Northorpe	1	14	—	—	—	—	—
Pilham	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Scotter	5	34	—	—	—	—	—
Scotton	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Stockwith, East . .	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Sturton-by-Stow . .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Upton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Walkerith	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Wildsworth	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Willoughton	1	38	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	11	170	8	2	1	1	1

